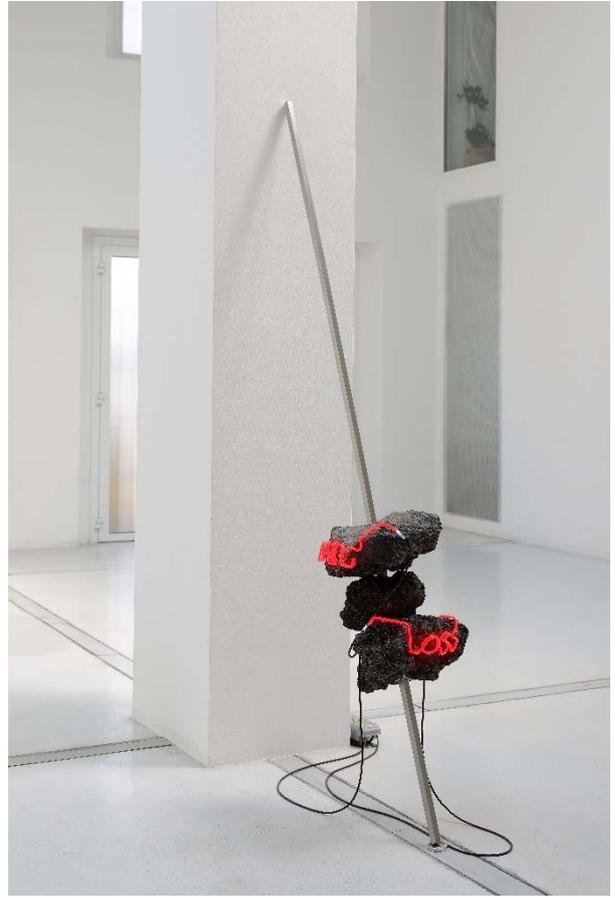


ARTHUR DUFF

FLAT ALL THE WAY DOWN
opening 18 March 2017, 11:30 a.m.

Exhibition period:

18 March – 10 June 2017



From 18 March 2017, Studio la Città will be presenting in its main exhibition room an exhibition by **Arthur Duff** which will show the public his most recent production, **from the laser works to his new knotted wall-pieces, and previously unseen neon works.**

The show, titled ***Flat all the way down***, originates from a mangling of the English expression “Turtles all the way down”, an extreme metaphor of the idea that the earth is supported on the back of a turtle. But who supports the turtle? Easy: It’s turtles all the way down! This is the paradoxical reply to the anecdote, according to which the world really is supported by an endless chain of larger turtles. This is a popular saying similar to the Italian one of the chicken and the egg, a logical riddle used for underlining the uselessness of a discourse or, alternatively, the incapacity to reach a concrete conclusion. These are the interactions that the artist is searching for in his use of words and materials, and he does so by questioning himself about being the “author” of an object and its consequent influence on the surrounding world.

As is often the case with Duff’s poetics, the works on show aim at dislocating notions of space and meaning by playing on our perception of physicality, in a similar way to the use of the classical elements of sculpture: the human language and condition are questioned and expressed in a playful yet committed, heavy, and onerous way, in order to approach art and its world.

Whether dealing with a tangle of knotted threads like a universe of particles, or a laser beam that leads to the emergence of a text from space, or words written in neon tubes on primordial lava rock, everything always leads back to the idea of transformation, perception, and the role of visual language in the social context. The text becomes an image and the image becomes a text, causing the boundaries between the two to become indistinct.

In the words of Marco Mancassola in an essay written for the catalogue for the exhibition *Borrowing You* held in Castelfranco Veneto: *What Arthur shows us here is that every communicative act of ours forces us to 'borrow' something or someone. In order to speak to others we must borrow them. Without a screen made up of others, we could not recognize our own words. We borrow, we are borrowed. We are the screen on which others project their conversation. We think that our wall defends us but, in reality, it inevitably serves to attract others: who, curious, come near to us as though in front of a mirror.*

Arthur Duff (Wiesbaden, Germania 1973).

After having lived in the United States, the country of his parents, and in Korea, Germany, and Japan, he settled in Italy. He is currently living in Vicenza. From the end of the 1990s he has been active as a visual artist on the Italian and international contemporary art scene. In 2010 he won the *premio 2%* prize, awarded by MACRO in Rome, for his *ROPE* project. In recent years he has created various urban-scale works, amongst which *Spin Series* for the Santo Spirito monumental complex in Sassia, Rome, 2010; and *Borrowing You* in Castelfranco Veneto, 2008; he participated in the show *Transparency* (Arthur Duff, Jenny Holzer, Julian Opie, Jaume Plensa, Stephan Reusse, and Ulla Rauter) part of the Public Art in Prague project, organized for the European Presidency of the Czech Republic in 2009. Recently he has taken part in various group shows, including *La Finestra sul Cortile. Scorci di collezioni private*, GAM, Milan, in 2017; *The Muse*, in the Whanki Museum, Seoul, 2016; *Proportio*, Palazzo Fortuny – Venice, 2015; *Temi & Variazioni, Scrittura e Spazio* at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, 2011; *La parola nell'arte. Ricerche d'avanguardia nel '900. Dal Futurismo ad oggi attraverso le Collezioni del Mart*, the Museo di arte moderna e contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto, 2007; the XIV Rome Quadrennial (the section for foreign artists) at the Rome National Gallery of Modern Art, 2005; and Palazzo delle Libertà, Centro d'Arte Contemporanea Le Papesse, Siena, 2003.

He has also collaborated with the teaching project of the Cassa Fondazione di Risparmio, Modena; the Guggenheim School; UniManagement; and C4. He is currently professor of multimedia installations and of the specialised two-year course in sculpture at the academy of fine art in Perugia.

High resolution images of the works on show with relative captions can be downloaded from the following link: <http://www.studiolacitta.it/download/ArthurDuff/>

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Venue:

Studio La Città, Lungadige Galtarossa 21, 37133 Verona

Opening hours:

from Tuesday to Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.